



Washington, D.C. 20505

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OLC: 87-0946/a 30 MAY 1981

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "H. R. A.", written in a stylized, cursive manner.

Honorable Stephen J. Solarz, Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of 21 May 1981 requesting a briefing by CIA on the Afghan freedom fighters and the possible role of external powers in supplying arms to Afghanistan. I appreciate the responsibility which your Subcommittee has to authorize military and economic assistance to this part of the world and your Subcommittee's need for timely and accurate foreign intelligence in its legislative deliberations. I would be most pleased to have the appropriate National Foreign Assessment Center analysts update the briefing you received prior to your visit to Pakistan in January.

With regard to any "special activities" of the Agency, I am certain you know that Section 407 of Public Law 96-450 specifies that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will be kept fully and currently informed of such activities. As you recall, this provision of law, modifying the Hughes-Ryan Amendment, eliminated from the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 the requirement to provide such information directly to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. It is my understanding--confirmed by the floor debate on the legislation--that the needs of your Committee for information about "special activities" are to be met by having several of your Members serve concurrently on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Representatives Zablocki and Hamilton are currently Members of both Committees, as you know.

Although we are not prohibited by the new law from briefing other Committees or Members on special activities, the intent of Congress to limit legislative responsibility for special activities is clear. It reflects a real concern for the safety of our personnel and the success of our activities which I am now charged with protecting.

Consequently, I ask that you pose your request for information on "special activities" to the House Foreign Affairs Committee Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Chairman Zablocki or Representative Lee Hamilton.

Sincerely,

WJ
William J. Casey

cc: Chairman Edward P. Boland, HPSCI
Chairman Clement J. Zablocki, HFAC
Chairman Lee H. Hamilton,
HFAC Subcommittee on Europe and
the Middle East

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